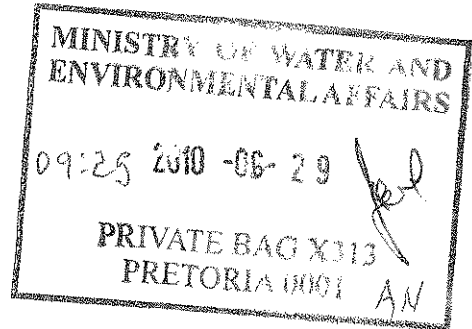




## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: W.J Maluleke  
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Reference: 16/2/7/1/1/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1821 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 28/6/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
MS B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 04/07/2010

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 1821**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 JUNE 2010**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)**

**1821. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) (a) What is the estimated amount of untreated and partially treated sewage that has flowed into the Hartebeespoortdam since 1 January 2010 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what are the principal sources of this pollution;
- (2) whether there are programmes specifically aimed at reducing the amount of sewage flowing into the dam; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the details of these programmes and (b) budgetary allocations for the (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 financial years;
- (3) whether these programmes have had any measurable successes in reducing sewage flowing into the dam; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether her department has made any representation to Treasury to increase the amount of funds available to the programmes to reduce sewage flowing into the dam; if not, why not; if so, what has been the response?

NW2101E

**REPLY:**

- (1)(a) The biggest spillage continued for more than six weeks from the manhole on the shoreline of the Hartebeespoort Dam in Meerhof. This manhole represents not more than 30% of the total volume to the Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW). The WWTW receives on an average 2.5 mega litres per day and therefore an estimated volume of the raw sewage spillage into the dam for this event would not be more than 31.5 mega litres.
- (1)(b) The source of this pollution is failing pump stations around the Hartebeespoort Dam emanating from Madibeng Local Municipality (LM).
- (2)(a) Yes, there are programmes by Madibeng LM to address the amount of sewage flowing into the dam. Such programmes include the following:
  - The municipality, infrastructure residential committee (a group of 10 retired engineers who offered their services to the municipality) and Hartebeespoort Dam Inhabitant Forum are conducting a detailed audit of all pump station and other sanitation infrastructure. They also determine remedial measures and financial requirement to address this.
  - My Department has deployed an engineer to also assist in the pump station audit process.
  - Lonmin Plantinum Mine has deployed the UWP Consulting Engineers to also assist in capacity building for municipal officials.
  - Reviewing of municipal by-laws to ensure correct effluent discharge from industries and restaurants in the area since some of the spillage problems are caused by fats from restaurants, grease and foreign objects.

- (2)(b)(i) The total direct operating cost is R 8 280 919 for the 2009/10 financial year and R20 million for 2010/11 financial year.
- (2)(b)(ii) There is a sharp escalation of the operation and maintenance budget in Madibeng LM for 2010/2011 financial years to address the challenges. An estimated capital injection of R20 million is required to upgrade the water and sanitation infrastructure. This figure will be confirmed once the audit has been completed and will inform the budget requirements for 2010/2011 financial year.
- (3) No, the success of the programmes still has to be determined. However, in the interim spillages from pump stations are attended to and problems addressed when noticed or reported.
- (4) No, as indicated in paragraph (2)(a) above, the details of the financial requirements to turn around the water and sanitation especially spilling pump stations are still being assessed. In the meantime, the Madibeng LM held a meeting with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to solicit funding. To date, DBSA has also deployed engineers to do need analysis in areas of water and sanitation, financial and town planning in Madibeng LM.

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